

APRIL 8, 2010 LSPA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting came to order at 8:45am in the cafeteria.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST VISIT

Lauren Garneau, the school psychologist, addressed the LSPA on re-emerging playground issues: spring and boisterousness are in the air, making transitions and at-play behaviors unruly. During at-home conversations, parents were encouraged to reinforce the school's 3 expected behaviors: 1) use kind words, 2) include all kids who want to play, and 3) keep your hands to yourself. Other "unstructured" spaces at school, like the cafeteria, are also problem areas, especially as adults other than teachers may be supervising. Lauren and Kate Scanlon stressed that all adults at Lincoln deserve equal respect, another important message for our children.

Actions to reinforce expected behaviors at school include a planned All-School Assembly, rewarding classrooms that show respect, and additional discussions during Open Circle time in the classrooms. Lincoln is the only school fortunate to have all teachers trained in Open Circle.

Some parents expressed concern that rowdiness may be crossing into bullying. Lauren and Kate stated that children are encouraged to try to solve a problem independently first. If this is unsuccessful, parents should contact the teacher ("I heard this is happening") or Lauren as a next step, but if the incident was extreme, parents should address it with Kate.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The February minutes were reviewed and accepted. No changes were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susan Fagerstrom gave the treasurer's report for February and March. Revenue is largely unchanged as the Direct Appeal is winding down. Most expense lines in the month were payments for enrichment and All School events. The restricted gift balance has been subsumed into the regular budget and will not appear for the balance of the year, although it caused a negative "double-hit" when comparing to last year (carried in revenue last year, paid back as expense this year.) Bottom line, Susan is anticipating a \$2,000 shortfall to net income goal for the year.

Susan announced and welcomed Lisa Malloy as next year's Asst Treasurer, supporting Jen Pagan who will assume the Treasurer position.

Both the February and March reports were approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

During Lauren Garneau's presentation, there was much discussion about the state of the playground, the lack of defined spaces for activities (especially for older grades) and the challenge for teachers and adults to create a safe and engaging space. No one seems more frustrated than Kate, who stated that

Bill McAlduff and Jay Gill are very aware of the space's shortcoming. Capital for our playground is slated for 2013. Mike Clark, a parent at Lincoln, is working on plans and ideas. Positive discussion ensued about what we as the LSPA could do (financially or otherwise) while we wait for capital funding. Bridget plans to work off-line with Kate and Mike to determine options.

Kate updated the LSPA on the various principal searches happening in the district. Chris Kelly, a former V-O teacher, will be the new principal at Lynch. Although there were 3 good candidates presented to the district for the McCall position, no one rose to the top, so an interim principal search is occurring now, and a permanent search will be reopened next year. Lisa McManus at Ambrose will be accepting the principal role in Newton, and Mark Kerble (Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum) is in talks with Newburyport.

The 4th graders finish this round of the MCAS today, with math rounds beginning again in May. Kate reported that the students have handled the testing very well, and members of the LSPA thanked the school for managing the process so smoothly. General feedback is that, while the length has been pared down versus previous years, it's still very long.

As of this writing, the last day of school should be Monday, June 21st, which will be a ½-day. Kate and Bridget discussed changing the expectation of the "snowmen" shown at the end of the school district calendar, as the state mandates 185 days with 5 days cushion, not 180 days as is implied by the visual.

Upcoming April events:

Authorfest	April 15th
McCall visits 5th graders	April 15th
Math morning	April 28th
Mentor Night	April 29th

From the LSPA website, you can access the Art website and get the necessary user name and password to view Lincoln's great student art!

Finally, the School Council will be sending out an e-Survey on school satisfaction. Kate asked the LSPA to send her any LSPA-related questions for which we would like feedback (e.g., enrichment activities.) Kate also urged everyone to complete the survey, as they are asking "the hard questions" to understand valued areas of improvement.

FIFTH GRADE REPORT

Lori Scully thanked the LSPA for the early gift of the T-shirts. She reported that the spring conference babysitting earned *exactly* what last spring's event did ("Eerie.")

Lori reviewed the activities for the 5th graders for the rest of the year. The calendar can also be found at www.lincolnspsa.org under the 5th Grade Committee link on the left-hand menu.

Parent Meeting at McCall	April 5th	7:00 - 9:00pm
Earth Day Clean Up	April 14th	2:45 - 4:00pm

McCall visits 5th Graders	April 15th	10:00am
Parent Meeting at McCall hosted by McCall Parent Association	April 27th	7:30pm
Mentor Night	April 29th	6:00 - 7:30pm
Moving Up Day at McCall	June 7th	9:15 - 10:30am
Pool Party (rain date June 15 th)	June 11th	9:00 – 1:00pm
Moving On Ceremony	June 17th	6:45 - 8:30pm

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Bridget Stump shared a few more key dates, as follows:

- Author Fest will be April 15th at school. There will be a book sale/book signing by the authors at Town Hall from 3-5pm that day.
- The Social Committee will host the Staff Appreciation lunch on Monday, May 3rd. They need 5 more volunteers, so please contact Bridget or Kerry Campbell if you can help
- Science/Math Mania night will be held Wednesday, May 5th from 6:30 – 8pm for all families. There are now twenty stations planned.
- WFEE Prom is planned for the evening of May 22nd at Town Hall
- Kudos to Brad Petrishen of the Winchester Star on his great coverage of events at Lincoln. If you have other story ideas, email him at bpetrish@cnc.com

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.